GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5658
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2000
TB IN RURAL AREAS
JAYABEN B. THAKKAR

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to a study carried out by the Tuberculosis Research Centre in Chennai and commissioned by the World Health Organisation, tuberculosis becomes a ground for rejection of at least one lakh women in India, mostly in rural homes, by their families every year; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken up by the Government to overcome the situation?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM)

(a) Yes Sir, because of the social stigma attached with TB, female patients of this disease often suffer rejection. A study by Ramachandran et al of Chennai (1997) found that acceptance of TB patients in a family in Tamilnadu are as under:-

	Rural %		Urban %	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Accepted	93	82	85	68
Not well	3	4	7	17
Accepted				
Rejected	4	14	8	15

A recent study carried out by Rajeswari et al (1999) found that 15% of rural and urban female patients are rejected by their families.

(b) Steps have been taken to improve IEC activities to overcome this situation.Facts about tuberculosis that it is caused by a germ and is curable if full course of treatment is taken are being percolated amongst all the sections of society. Dos and Don`ts and facts about TB are printed in leading newspapers for the knowledge of the public. Cash assistance is being released to DTCS for IEC activities to be undertaken as per local needs. Since May, 1997, the Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) with World Bank assistance is being implemented in the country. Under this programme the aim is to achieve a cure rate of 85% and to detect 75% of all cases. Currently this programme covers a population of 180 million. It is scheduled to achieve a coverage of 500 million people under RNTCP by 2002.